Session XIV

Clinical and Experimental Investigations in the Caribbean

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PSYCHOPATHOLOGY OF WHITE IMMIGRANTS TO JAMAICA

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Object to test the hypothesis that white immigrants to a predominantly black country have a different pattern of psychopathology to that of the native population. Method: The psychopathology (DSM III) of white immigrants to Jamaica seen in the author's private practise between 1979 and 1990 was compared with the psychpathology of a control samples of native Jamaicans matched with class. Results: The most frequent diagnosis was depression and manic depressive pyschosis (35%) with anxiety states being the next to most common diagnosis (27%). There were no statistical difference between the immigrant and control groups. Neither was there a significant difference between the past history, family history or the pattern of symptomatology between the two groups. There was a significant difference between the social class (using the UK Registrar General's classification of social class by occupation) of the parents of the immigrant group and the control group with 53% of the parents of the immigrant group belonging to social class I,II, and III and 47% belonging to social class IV and V. The corresponding breakdown for social class of the control group was 74% and 26% respectively ($p<0.005$). Discussion: These results were discussed in relation to current findings of the rates of psychopathology in other immigrant populations in the rest of the world and in particularly to the high rates of schizophrenia reported in Afro-Caribbeans in the United Kingdom. Conclusion: That there is no difference in the pattern of psychopathology of white immigrants to Jamaica and black Jamaican controls.

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